ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method, apparatus, article of manufacture, and a memory structure for an inter-node network. Nodes are active-active using commodity hardware so that the system can perform I/O together between any number of nodes, and data can be located on any given

5   node. A single modified image is configured to maintain recent and updated data. At least one failure can occur (and be corrected) in the nodes before data is written to disk. A history of access points is kept in a cache directory, and it is assumed that the nodes most frequently accessed in the past are likely to be the most frequently accessed in the near future. One or more embodiments of the invention move this data to where it will likely be

10   needed. This means that data is delivered to hosts quickly, as is required in high volume enterprise web environments. The symbolic list in the cache directory provides a history of the nodes that have previously performed I/O operations. When data is requested, embodiments of the invention look at the symbolic list to determine which node's cache contains the requested data. Once a new write I/O operation is performed, the symbolic list

15   is updated to provide for the new I/O operation. Additionally, embodiments of the invention provide Fast write support, fault tolerance support, and concurrent node installation support.